

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

JEFFREY S. GUICE

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Constitution
County Affairs
Fees & Salaries of Public Officers
Marine Resources

October 26, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Proceeding—No. 11-65).

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to you today about an issue critically important to Mississippians: increased availability of high-speed broadband.

This technology brings with it the ability to communicate and to access vital information at lightning speed. Tourism is a major component of our local economy, and increased availability of broadband will help us to better promote our many beaches and attractions. Widespread access to broadband can help communities to grow and thrive, as this access leads to improved quality of life and an improved economy.

Advanced communications technologies also have important public safety applications. In recent years, various natural disasters have demonstrated the importance of a robust, reliable communications network in a crisis.

Wireless broadband is a vital tool for coordinating natural disaster preparations, alerting citizens about severe weather, promoting peace and order, assisting first responders, and obtaining critical medical information. This technology can help save lives, crisis or no crisis

That's why the AT&T and T-Mobile merger is so essential. It can quickly bring access to high-speed broadband to over 95 percent of Mississippi residents, including many in rural areas, and all without the use of public funds. I urge you to approve this merger, and I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Guice", written over a horizontal line.

Representative Jeffrey S. Guice
Mississippi State House of Representatives, District 114

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Robert McDowell